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Executive Registry

67-2908

14 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans  
Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Deputy Director for Science & Technology  
Director of National Estimates

SUBJECT: Revision of Priority National Intelligence  
Objectives (PNIOs)

1. For some years CIA's attention to DCID 1/3 (PNIOs) has been largely confined to their preparation by the Office of National Estimates and the Agency's participation in the USIB deliberations on the subject. The provision for annual revision and quarterly supplements has had the effect of making the PNIOs a pro forma process which has not included adequate participation by those Agency elements which can and ought to make an effective contribution to the development of a more useful list.

2. In order to engage the interest and participation of all the Agency's collecting and producing elements, there is herewith established an ad hoc committee to develop recommendations for a CIA position with respect to the forthcoming revision by the USIB of the PNIOs. These recommendations should include redefining the content and purpose of the PNIO list, the frequency of revision of the list, and the substantive content of Intelligence Objectives to be included on the list. In developing their recommendations, the committee should be guided by the criterion that the list should be specific, unequivocal and limited to those Intelligence Objectives upon which our national survival depends.

3. [ ] will act as chairman of the committee. Each addressee is requested to assign to the committee one senior officer with the broad qualifications needed to contribute effectively to the deliberations of the committee. I am confident that each of you has a personal interest in and will fully support this effort.

[ ] will request whatever support he needs from your

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25X1 components through your representative on the committee, including drafts of PNIOs which represent your views to be discussed on the committee. [redacted] will be contacting you shortly regarding the assignment of your representative to the committee.

4. The USIB schedule calls for the annual revision of the PNIOs in the near future. I intend to request USIB to postpone its consideration until the Agency has had an opportunity to complete the task discussed above.

[redacted] 25X1  
Rufus Taylor  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Deputy Director

cc: D/DCI/NIPE  
Executive Director  
Deputy Director for Support  
Special Assistant to the DCI [redacted]  
USIB/S [redacted]

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